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# WISCONSIN ACHIEVERS

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## Alverno Sophomore Lives Her Dream While Helping Others

Alexa Alvarez of Milwaukee, the youngest of four children, is one of the first in her family to attend college and pursue a degree in business management.



Alexa Alvarez

*“The Wisconsin Grant allows me to follow the dream I’ve had since middle school.”*

“I came to visit Alverno when my sister was invited to the scholarship dinner,” she says. “I was in middle school, and since that day I always wanted to come here. I loved the environment and how welcoming it was.” she started in the fall of 2022, she found Alverno to be just as welcoming as she remembered.

As a child, Alexa was timid. Alverno has helped her open up and find traits in herself she didn’t know she had. “The most valuable thing I learned from Alverno is to be open to bigger opportunities. Back then, I wasn’t interested in taking risks. Being here, I’ve realized there are so many great people around me, so many support systems I’ve gained by coming to Alverno.” None of this would have been possible without the Wisconsin Grant Program.

The Wisconsin Grant is vital to Alexa. “Being able to pay off school is one of the many things I’m grateful for. My parents don’t make a lot, and we can’t afford a private school like Alverno. But the Wisconsin Grant allows me to follow the dream I’ve had since middle school.” Her hard-working parents have always supported her and her siblings. But without the grant, Alexa would have had to work to save money for college, delaying her start by at least a year.

Now a sophomore, Alexa has been a student worker in the Financial Aid and Student Accounts Office for more than a year. She is also a part of Hispanic Professionals of

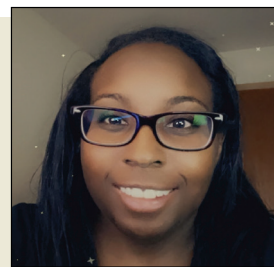
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## Herzing Student Overcomes Challenges to Create Triumphs

Alexis Woods has always been determined, with a passion for healthcare and a desire to make a difference.

Her journey has been one of personal growth and academic achievement. Her experience also serves as an example of how the Wisconsin Grant Program can remove barriers and clear a path for anyone to become the nurse they were destined to be. Alexis is slated to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in nursing in December 2025.

Growing up in Milwaukee, she witnessed firsthand the impact of healthcare disparities within her family. Her family’s history of breast cancer also served as a reminder of the importance of accessible and compassionate healthcare. It was this early exposure that ignited Alexis’s passion for healthcare and set her on a path toward pursuing a career in nursing, with a special interest in mental health.



Alexis Woods

*“The Wisconsin Grant is one of those things that helps to ease stress. It makes the work a little less daunting — and it helps you see the end goal as something a little more possible.”*

Like many people considering higher education, Alexis wondered how she could afford college. And then she learned about the Wisconsin Grant.

“The Wisconsin Grant is one of those things that helps to ease stress,” says Alexis. “There’s always going to be obstacles, but something like this makes the work you do a little less daunting — and it helps you see the end goal as something a little more possible.”

With the Wisconsin Grant’s support, Alexis enrolled at Herzing University, where flexibility and support

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## The Wisconsin Grant Program

The twenty-two private, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without direct taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 51,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need financial help to attend the college of their choice.

The Wisconsin Grant was enacted in 1965 to help qualified Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Each month, Wisconsin Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites at WAICU-member campuses for whom the Wisconsin Grant Program has made a significant difference.

## Alexa Alvarez

Greater Milwaukee (HPGM) and currently serves as the treasurer. "Alverno has made me grow as a person. It helped me develop a lot of skills I didn't have in high school," she says. "With the Wisconsin Grant, I've been able to experience all these things that Alverno offered."

Alexa plans to learn more about business and work at a financial firm. She also hopes to one day be her own boss. While she may be uncertain exactly where she will land in the future, her goal is to become a successful businesswoman.

Her plans don't end there. "I want to one day have a family of my own, maybe even pass on things I learned here at Alverno to them." Even now, Alexa passes on knowledge to others.

"It feels good to give information to people who don't have access to the support that Alverno gives to students. If I can be the person to help another student apply to college or know how to look for a college, that gives me a sense of pride and satisfaction."

## Alexis Woods

became the cornerstones of her success. Unlike her previous educational experiences, Herzing University offers Alexis the flexibility to balance her studies with her responsibilities as a single mother and her job in health-care at Advocate Aurora Health.

Throughout her time at Herzing, Alexis has excelled academically and embraced every opportunity for growth and development. From her hands-on clinical experiences to her coursework in healthcare management, Alexis has honed her skills and expanded her knowledge, laying the foundation for a promising career.

"With all I've learned and experienced, I can see a future where I can truly make a difference in people's lives," she explains. "Whether it's working with kids in pediatrics or supporting patients' mental health, I'm driven to bring positive change to people who need it. I'm so thankful for everyone who has helped me along the way. I'm carrying that forward."

While the path to success may have its challenges, through perseverance, determination, and the support of programs like the Wisconsin Grant, Alexis is turning her dreams into reality.

## FACT OF THE MONTH

WAICU-member campuses produce 24 percent of bachelor's degrees and 34 percent of advanced degrees statewide with no direct operating support from taxpayers.

Source: IPEDS Completion Survey, 2021-2022.